

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
RECEIVED
APR 7 1900
U.S. DEPT.

The Colored American

A NATIONAL NEGRO NEWSPAPER

VOL. 8. NO. 2

WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, APRIL 7 1900.

PRICE FIVE CENTS

POLITICS IN WEST VIRGINIA

A News Mirror Which Reflects the Whole Doings of the Race in a Thriving Mining City. Activity Among the Churches and Much Life in the Social World.

Clarksburg, W. Va. Special.—Rev. Watson and Mr. Pollock Lowery have returned from the Baltimore Conference. The congregation of Rev. Watson's church is to be congratulated for having secured him as pastor for another year.

A municipal election was held here last Tuesday and the bribe-giver and bribe-taker were largely in evidence. I cannot find language strong enough to condemn, in fitting terms, the methods pursued by some of the candidates of both parties. The wholesale and open buying of votes was disgraceful in the extreme; a travesty on good government. Party leaders seem to think that every Negro voter has his price and they make an honest election an impossibility. The law makes bribery a serious offense, yet there was no effort made to apprehend any of the offenders. That men can violate the law with impunity and so prostitute an election, is a reflection on the entire community. Keep money and whisky out of sight and do not tempt the voter.

Mr. Albert Miles was a delegate to the democratic city convention which nominated candidates for local offices, last Saturday night. He is to be congratulated for having the courage of his convictions and those who assume to criticize him for his course are hardly worthy of consideration. Their opinions cannot carry much weight. In this age of enlightenment Negroes should show as much liberality of thought in politics as in religion. There is no more reason for our being all republicans than there is reason for our being all Methodists or Baptists.

That postoffice employee who was reported to have insulted a colored citizen evidently knew his man. The individual to whom he addressed his offensive remark lost his nerve of course and refused to furnish the League committee with the offender's name. He will in all probability pick just such an "easy mark" next time, but will be careful not to offend a more manly and courageous Negro.

The Equal Rights League met last Monday night and unanimously decided to support several of the candidates for municipal offices without regard to party affiliations. This is a



HON. CORNELIUS J. JONES,
A Mississippi Leader Who is Now Contesting for His Seat in Congress,
from the Shoe String District of Mississippi.

step in the right direction for we should support those friendly to our race.

Miss Bertha Lea read a paper before the Hasty Pudding Lyceum last Wednesday evening. The subject, "What the Race is Doing," was well presented and the paper was favorably commented upon by Rev. Morris, Prof. Guss and others.

The appeal issued by the A. M. E. Church met with a generous response. Rev. Morris' efforts produced results far beyond the expectations of the most sanguine and the indebtedness on the church will soon be discharged.

Mr. John Ellis, of Fairmount, who enjoys the distinction of being the only Negro to secure admission to the white Normal School there, was in the city for a few days last week.

It will be suggested that the Equal Rights League send a petition to Representative Dovenor asking him to support Representative White's Anti-Lynching measure,

Messrs. Thomas Scott and Dale Dean have returned from Washington and Baltimore, and report an enjoyable trip.

Rev. A. F. Tuck, of Parkersburg, father of Mrs. Thomas Wellman, has been critically ill, but is convalescent.

Hoffman's Musical Festival.

At the big Musical Festival at the Academy of Music June 8th next Hoffman's Band celebrates their first anniversary. Selections from Victor Herbert's new comic operas, together with Sousa's latest composition will predominate. For the encores Leader Hoffman has recently secured from the publishers some new London music hall novelties that will be whistled all over Washington after the Festival is over. Favorable comment is heard everywhere concerning the project for the erection of a Music Hall and Roof Garden in this city outlined by Mr. Hoffman in last week's American.

ASK WIGHT'S REMOVAL.

Colored Citizens in Mass Meeting Take Action—Gathering Called to Discuss the District Schools Changed to an Indignation—Committee Appointed to Present Resolutions to the President—Commissioner's Statement.

District Commissioner John B. Wight was probably the most talked of man in Washington last Sunday. The 90,000 colored people of the District had the Commissioner up for discussion. The echoes of his remarks made before the Senate Subcommittee on Appropriations, classing the Negroes as criminals with no regard for human life, and worse than safecrackers, are still ringing in the ears of the citizens of the District.

At a mass-meeting at the Second Baptist Church, Mr. Wight was the subject of bitter denunciation. Resolutions were adopted asking for the immediate removal of the Commissioner, were presented to President McKisley last Wednesday.

The meeting set for the afternoon was that of the Second Baptist Lyceum. It was announced from most of the pulpits Sunday morning that the subject to be discussed at the meeting was the status of the public schools of Washington, with special reference to the colored schools. In calling the meeting to order the president of the lyceum said that the meeting was not called for the purpose of denouncing Commissioner Wight, nor was it in any sense an indignation meeting. The Church was filled to the doors.

NEEDS OF SCHOOL SYSTEM.

The first speaker was Hon. John P. Green, of Ohio. He spoke at length upon the education of the colored youth. He said that he did not believe the black boy should be taught that he is different from the white boy. He said the authorities had no right to foist upon the colored people teachers not in every way equal to the white youth. He expressed a conviction that if the bill now pending in Congress is enacted into law, as it stands at present, it will deprive the Negroes of their superintendent of schools. He gave a number of reasons why there should be a colored superintendent for the colored schools, as well as colored supervisors. "If the white man," said Mr. Green, "could come in closer touch with the Negro he would think more of him. There is no way made possible for the

(Continued on Ninth page.)